

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling a telecommunications network comprising the steps of:
 - recognizing a busy condition of a subscriber line;
 - initiating a first call to said subscriber line in response to recognizing the busy condition, including transmitting a first call set-up message indicating a first special calling party number to said subscriber line;
 - detecting a trigger when said first call reaches a switching point in the telecommunications network;
 - in response to detecting the trigger, transmitting a first query message to a control point in the telecommunications network, said first query message including said special calling party number;
 - receiving said first query message at said control point;
 - storing an indicator of said condition in response to receiving said first special calling party number;
 - recognizing a change of said condition;
 - initiating a second call in response to recognizing the change of said condition, including transmitting a second call set-up message indicating a second special calling party number;
 - detecting a trigger when said second call reaches a switching point in the telecommunications network;
 - transmitting a second query message including said second special calling party number;
 - receiving said other query message including said second special calling party number; and
 - updating said indicator of said condition in response to receiving said second special calling party number.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said first and second special party numbers are different invalid calling party numbers.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of updating said indicator includes a step of updating said indicator to a status existing prior to said step of storing.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2-4 wherein at least one of said steps of recognizing a condition includes a step of determining a status associated with a subscriber telephone number and said step of initiating a first call includes a step of calling said subscriber telephone number.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2-4 wherein at least one of said steps of detecting a trigger is performed at a terminating switch serving a subscriber telephone line.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein said step of initiating said first call includes calling a telephone number of said subscriber telephone line.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2-4 wherein said step of storing an indicator of said condition in response to receiving said first special calling party number includes a step of setting a flag as part of a call processing record of an associated subscriber.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2-4 further comprising a step of transmitting a disconnect request.

10-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method of processing calls to a telephone line serving a called party, comprising the steps of:

identifying a connection status of said telephone line of said called party;
in response to determining a busy condition ---

(a) initiating a first call to said called party using a special calling party number,

- (b) transiting a first query message to a remote control point, said first query message including said special calling party number, and
- (c) in response to receiving said special calling party number at the remote control point, setting a status indicator of said telephone line at said remote control point; receiving a request for a second call to the telephone line, the second call from a calling party;
- initiating the second call using a second call set-up message indicating a calling party number associated with the calling party; and
- transmitting a second query message to the remote control point, said second query message including the calling party number associated with the calling party.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24--wherein said first call set-up message comprises an ISDN User Part (ISUP) message.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein:

said step of transmitting a first query message includes transmitting a Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) message from said switching point to the control point;

the control point comprises a Service Control Point (SCP); and

said first special calling party number transmitted in a calling party identification portion of said TCAP message, said first special calling party number recognized as an invalid telephone number.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising a step of processing, in response to said indicator, a subsequent third call initiated to the same telephone number as said first call.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of initiating a first call to said called party includes transmitting an ISDN User Part (ISUP) message to a Service Switching Point (SSP) serving said called party.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein:

Said step of transmitting a first query message includes transmitting a Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) message from said SSP to the remote control point; the remote control point comprises a Service Control Point (SCP); and said special calling party number is transmitted in a calling party identification portion of said TCAP message, said special calling party number recognized as an invalid telephone number.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising a step of processing, in response to said status indicator, said second call.